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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A shaper allowing an arbitrary transmission time and simultaneous transmission of a plurality of packets is disclosed. A content-addressable memory stores a plurality of scheduled transmission times, at each of which at least one packet is to be transmitted. A packet management table stores linkage information indicating a linkage of a plurality of packets that are to be transmitted at a same scheduled transmission time. A current-time searcher searches the content-addressable memory for a scheduled transmission time matching the current time. At least one packet can be transmitted at the scheduled transmission time matching the current time by referring to the packet management table.